The States|UTs also asked for higher allocation of Public Distribution System items from the Central Pool.

Constitution and functioning of Bachawat Wage Report

1312. SHRI N. E. BALARAM: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) when the Bachawat Wage Board was constituted and the date of starting its functioning;

(b) when the study completed was and when the report was submitted to Government;

(c) what are the total expenses, under different heads of accounts, incurred by Government for this Board; and

(d) what was the reason for inordinate delay in submitting the report?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI RADHAKRISHAN MALVIYA): (a) and (b) The Wage Boards for Working Journalists and Non-Journalist Emploees (Bachawat Wage Board) were constituted vide Notification dated 17th July, 1985. The Boards started functioning on 1st August, 1985 when the Chairman took over the Charge. They have submitted their report on 30th May, 1989.

(c) The expenditure under different heads is as under:—

Salary	22.94 lakhs
Office Expenses	12.32 lakhs
T.A.	12.55 lakhs
Wages	1.68 lakhs
Other Expenses	0.25 lakhs

(d) The Wage Boards had to make extensive studies and consultations before arriving at the conclusions/ recommendations.

Manufacture of sponge iron

1313. SHRI D. B. CHANDRE GOWDA: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether China has shown its interest in India's process for the manufacture of sponge iron;

(b) if so, the details of the recent talks held with China in this regard; and

(c) how Government propose to have ventures with China?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI MAKHANLAL FOTEDAR): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. During the visit of the Indian delegation to China recently, the Chinese did express their interest in the manufacture of sponge iron which is being promoted in India. It was informally indicated to them that, should they wish to do so, they could send a delegation to our country for a study tour. The issue is still in a very preliminary stage and there is no joint venture proposed with China at this stage.

Restructuring the Public Distribution System in the country

1314. SHRI D. B. CHANDRE GOWDA: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to restructure the Public Distribution System throughout the country to make it more effective and purposeful to meet the consumers' needs;

(b) if so, the steps taken in this regard so far by Government; and

(c) the details of commodities presently supplied by Government through the Public Distribution System?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) and (b) As a continual

process to strengthen and streamline the functioning of the Public Distribution System, the States and Union Territories have been advised, from time to time, to increase their commodity coverage, evolve effective coordination system among various agencies engaged in Public Distribution System, set up consumer advisory/vigilance committees at various levels, improved the viability of fair price shops, tighten enforcement and inspection arrangements, open more Fair Price Shops wherever necessary, introduce mobile shops for supply of essential commodities, etc.

(c) At present, seven essential commodities, namely, wheat, rice, levy sugar, imported edible oils, kerosene oil, soft coke and controlled cloth are supplied by the Central Government to the States and Union Territories for distribution through Public Distribution System.

Formula for allocation of Food-grains to States

1315. SHRI HARVENDRA SINGH HANSPAL: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have evolved any formula to allocate quota of foodgrains to each State;

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that several State Governments are not being given adequate foodgrains, resulting in high prices of foodgrains; and

(c) the details of the foodgrains distributed to each State during the last three years, year-wise for the Public Distribution System?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) and (b) The allocations of foodgrains to various States/UTs for Public Distribution System from the Central Pool are made on a month to month basis taking into account the overall availability of stocks in the Central Pool, relative needs of various States, market availability and other related factors. These allocations are, however, only supplemental in nature.

(c) A Statement showing allocation of foodgrains (Wheat and Rice) to various States/UTs during the last three years for Public Distribution System is attached. (*See* below)

Statement

Allocation of foodgrains (Wheat and Rice) to various states/UTs for public distribution system during the years 1986, 1987 *and* 1988

(In lakh tonnes)

States/UTs	1986	1987	1988
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
1. Andhra Pradesh	14.92	14.17	9.98
2. Arunachal Pradesh	0.78	0.82	0.89
3. Assam	9.67	9.67	6.78
4. Bihar	11.64	13.51	10.34
5. Goa	0.82*	0.75*	0.70
6. Gujarat	8.10	11.10	12.60
7. Haryana	4.04	4.02	3.38